2001 regarding International Atomic Energy Agency, hoped that India, Pakistan, Israel and five major nuclear power States were urgently reviewing the safety of their facilities;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that arrangements for Pakistan's nuclear facilities are not safe and if so, whether Government have drawn attention of the internatioanl community to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. At a recent international symposium on nuclear safeguards, verification and security issues, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said so while expressing his concern at the heightened threat of nuclear terrorism.

(b) Government has taken adequate security measures for the protection of all vital nuclear installations in the country and these are constantly monitored in the wake of the 11th September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States. Additional security measures to tighten and enhance the security of installations have been taken and due vigilance is being maintained.

(c) Government has not seen any assessments to this effect from any authoritative sources such as the IAEA.

Visit of German Chancellor to India

1263. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that German Chancellor had visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the agreements arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, Federal Chancellor of Germany paid an official visit to India from 28—31 October, 2001. The German Chancellor was accompanied by Mr. Otto Schily, Minister of Interior, Dr. Werner Mueller, Minister of Economics and a high-level official, business and media delegation.

(b) The Chancellor's programme included talks in New Delhi with the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister. The discussions covered a wide range of issues, including review of bilateral relations, regional and

international issues of mutual concern in particular the fight against international terrorism and evolving situation in Afghanistan. German Chancellor condemned the terrorist attack in Srinagar on 1st October, and reiterated that Germany would not distinguish between acts of terrorism or between good & bad terrorists. Chancellor Schroeder suggested and Prime Minister agreed that both countries should meet at the highest political level annually. PM has accepted Chancellor Schroeder's invitation to visit Berlin in 2002. The need to strengthen economic linkages, particularly in infrastructure and IT was highlighted during the visit. Four agreements for German assistance totalling Rs. 670 crores for the 140 MW Integrated Solar Power Plant at mathania, Rajasthan, and assistance for programmes on integrated rural water supply, polio and fertilizers were signed during the visit.

Bangladesh's willingness to export petroleum gas to India

1264. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Government of Bangladesh is willing to export petroleum gas to India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to explore the possibility of importing gas from Bangladesh on economic consideration at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India have been informed by the Government of Bangladesh that it was examining the possibility of export of gas to India.

Fraudulent withdrawal of money from account of Indian Embassy in Ukraine

1265. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 35 lakhs has been fraudulently withdrawn from the account of the Indian Embassy in Ukraine;

(b) whether the Dollar A/C was opened with the permission of Government and in accordance with the rules and regulations in this regard;

(c) what is the progress of the case and whether Interpol help has been sought; and